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Dated: June 22, 2006

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(Andrew T. Zidek)

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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 2131

Docket No.: SONYTA 3.3-139

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

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Asano et al.

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Application No.: 09/937,120

: Group Art Unit: 2131

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Filed: December 17, 2001

: Examiner: L. Chai

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For: DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
DATA PROCESSING METHOD

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REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 29, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1, 4-9, 12-16, 19, 22-26, 29-33, 36, 39-43 and 46, the following reply is presented with respect to the above-identified U.S. patent application.